

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

December 20, 1951

DIVISION OF BACTERIOLOGY  
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin

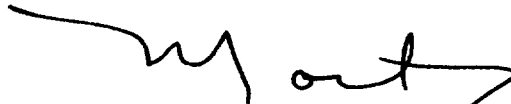
Dear Joshua:

We have posted your notice concerning the assistantships. I hereby inform you, however, that I shall resist strenuously the departure of any of our present graduate students since we have a huge deficit of assistants ourselves. Indeed, let me hastily reciprocate by inviting any of your even half-good students to come to Davis. We shall probably have one or two vacancies as teaching assistant or research assistant and might even need a Ph.D. to start as instructor. The latter should be a junior genius something like you used to be five or ten years ago.

The actual stimulus for writing you, however, is not to exchange pleasantries about such matters but to ask you to elaborate on a couple of words at the end of the next to the last paragraph, page 81, of your splendid contribution in Werkman and Wilson. The relevant statement is: "Other mutations amenable to genetic analysis include effects on . . . . vitamin excretion." We are presently trying to explain the antibiotic growth effect in poultry on the basis of "hoarding" of various vitamins by intestinal microbes with the antibiotics somehow or other diminishing this "hoarding" activity. In this connection it would, of course, be good to know some specific examples such as you must have had in mind when writing this sentence. If you can give me a reference or two to the literature, I shall be very much obliged.

My best wishes for a pleasant Christmas and a 1952 as profitable as 1951 has been.

Sincerely,



Mortimer P. Starr  
Assistant Professor

MPS:imp